

Chair: Senator Floyd Prozanski

Senator Ginny Burdick

Senator Sara Gelser

Senator Jeff Kruse

Senator Kim Thatcher

My name is Mike Friend and I live in Southeast Portland,

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to speak today regarding Senate Bill 694 which will allow motorcyclists to filter through highway or freeway traffic when it is stopped or very slow.

I have been riding for over 40 years - my motorcycles are my main source of transportation. I believe this bill will increase motorcycle safety on our public highways and interstates. For motorcyclists to be able to filter through our highway and interstate traffic when traffic is stopped or going less than 10 MPH will be a huge safety benefit for riders. Please also keep in mind that this bill allows riders to travel no faster than 20 MPH which is the same rate of speed vehicles are to travel in school zones. Therefore at these low speeds no one is going to get seriously hurt if there is contact between vehicles.

A concern for riders on our streets and highways is rear-end collisions which make up 40% of all crashes in the US. As you can imagine, a rear end collision with a car hitting another car is survivable. A car or heavy vehicle rear-ending a motorcycle will likely be very serious, if not fatal, for the rider and potential passenger.

The California Office of Traffic Safety recently did a study and found that motorcyclists who took advantage of lane filtering were less likely to be involved in a rear end collision. They found that 97% of the riders were not involved in any type of accident. For those that were in an accident, 6% indicated they incurred minor injuries only. They also found that the majority of riders who filtered their way through traffic did so lawfully and at prudent speeds.

In a recent California Highway Patrol study there were 55% fewer fatalities in lane filtering accidents versus non-lane filtering accidents. The limited number of accidents can be attributed to lower speeds and to motorcycles being removed from the driver's blind spot

when they ride between lanes. Motorcycles are out of the driver's blind spot and placed in the lane between the cars which is in direct view of car drivers and truck drivers side mirrors.

There are other advantages to lane filtering as well. Traffic flows better because there is one less vehicle in the lane and therefore drivers can move ahead allowing them to get to their destination sooner. The motorcycle is gone, ahead of the driver so no more worry there. By removing hundreds of vehicle spaces from a crowded highway helps traffic congestion at the same time providing a measure of safety for the motorcycle rider.

I hope you find this information useful and again I ask for your support of SB694.

Thank you for listening!

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